

# Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, August 26, 2008

**Present:** Barbara Buffaloe, Jean Sax, Dan Goldstein, Alyce Turner, Bob Walters, Dick Parker

**Absent:** Kip Kendrick, Teresa Hunter, David Brodsky, Dillon Wyatt

**Guests:** J. Kraig Kahler, Water and Light Director; Barbara Hoppe, City Council; Tom O'Connor, Water & Light Advisory Board; Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters; Laura Latzko, Missourian; Linda Waterborg, Missourian; Michael Gibney, Missourian

**City Staff Liaison:** Stephanie Brown

Ms. Buffaloe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## AGENDA

The agenda was approved without changes.

## MINUTES

The minutes for July 22, 2008 were approved without changes.

## J. KRAIG KAHLER, WATER AND LIGHT DIRECTOR

Ms. Buffaloe opened the meeting with an introduction of the new Water and Light Director, J. Kraig Kahler. Mr. Kahler said he has been with the City since July 28, 2008. Previously he had been the head of the municipal utilities in Weatherford, TX where he retired after 20 years of service. He said he earned an engineering degree from Kansas State University and his Master's in Business Administration and Finance from the University of Colorado. He said the population of Weatherford is approximately 25,000. When asked about the energy conservation measures in Weatherford he responded that one of the main focuses was on street lighting. He said since Weatherford purchased all of its energy from outside sources, not much emphasis was put toward energy efficiency. He said the landfill was not large enough to house a landfill gas plant. Mr. Kahler also mentioned that over 5,000 MW of wind energy could be produced in Texas, but it was not economical to purchase it largely due to transmission issues.

Ms. Buffaloe informed Mr. Kahler that a suggestion for a benchmark of energy usage on the customer utility bills was presented to several Water and Light staff. She said the EEC would like to have comparable statistics on the utility bills, or at least make a website tool available for customers to compare their usage to similar situations. She also mentioned the Department of Energy does have a similar tool on its website and would like to the city have a similar program on the City website. Mr. Parker said that the Finance Department said that other items cannot be added to the utility bills.

Ms. Turner commented on the need for more energy efficient requirements on new buildings and Mr. Kahler responded that the best way to achieve this is through the building codes and the planning and development departments. Mr. Parker said testimony and recommendation from the Water and Light Department is needed to encourage this measure.

Mr. Kahler asked the Commission if nuclear energy has been a topic of discussion. Mr. Walters mentioned that the topic of nuclear power has not been discussed, but several commissioners had thoughts on this subject. Mr. Kahler explained that nuclear energy can be an option in terms of CO2 emissions. Mr. Goldstein said this subject will meet some opposition in the City.

Mr. Kahler said Weatherford performed a study on the LED lights and discovered that they were not feasible. He said they are more expensive and emit less light and that the high pressure sodium lights were the most economical in Weatherford, TX. He said there are three major points to consider in selecting a type of street light – cost, wattage, and lumens. Barbara Hoppe commented that the longevity of the street light is also a crucial factor to consider as well as the cost to replace them. Mr. Goldstein said the city has a strong interest in selecting the most energy efficient and economical street light. Barbara Hoppe commented that the longevity of the street light is also a crucial factor to consider as well as the cost to replace them. Mr. Kahler said the longevity of LED lights is unknown because they are new. Mr. Kahler said all technologies will be researched. Mr. Goldstein said he would like to see a plan from the city to replace the mercury vapor street lights and receive updates on the LED test fixtures.

Ms. Buffaloe asked that the Water and Light Department keep other options in mind and continue to stay current on new research and information regarding other alternatives such as wind energy, nuclear energy, and LED street lighting fixtures.

#### **MAYOR'S CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT – REPORT CARD**

Ms. Buffaloe asked for comments on the letter asking the City to create a report card to track the progress of how the City is adhering to the twelve action items on Resolution 160-06 pertaining to the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. On the letter to the City Council, Mr. Walters assigned the city department that would be directly responsible for implementing each action item. Mr. Goldstein suggested sending the letter to the school district as well to report their progress with the new schools. Mr. Parker made a suggestion to include the reduction material going into the landfill. Mr. Walters said it can be included under recycling. Mr. Goldstein asked if this could include the subject of bottle and can recycling as it was done in the past. Ms. Buffaloe suggested that it could be done as a separate topic. Mr. Parker commented that the annual inventory report should be included. Mr. Walters would also like to include suggestions from staff.

The Commission decided to revisit this topic at the next meeting. The EEC would like the letter to be submitted to the City Council in November, so that the report card can be ready for display at the Earth Day event in the spring.

#### TRAFFIC LIGHT SEQUENCING

Mr. Walters created a letter to go to the City Council suggesting the broader use of traffic light synchronization. He said he will e-mail the link for the 2007 "National Traffic Signal Report Card" to Council members. Mr. Walters said he received feedback from the Public Works Department saying the decision would be up to the City Council. Mr. Walters will add the revisions to the letter.

#### POWER SUPPLY TASK FORCE

Dick Parker said there will be a Power Supply Task Force meeting to discuss the new revised draft of the IRP on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the Water and Light Administration Building. He said there are many Demand Side Management issues covered in this report. He also expressed concern over certain details that are not included in the report that he felt may be vital information.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONER

Ms. Buffaloe said that she will contact Mr. Brodsky about attending the meetings.

Mr. Parker provided information regarding a study in which he participated on recycling.

Ms. Hoppe announced that the city is proposing an increase in the fare for public transportation that would double the amount. She would like input from the EEC before Council has to make a decision in September. She suggested that members participate in the public hearing at the September 2 City Council meeting.

Tom O'Connor said he would like more communication between the EEC and the Water and Light Advisory Board.

Several commissioners adjourned to Boone Tavern to thank John Miles, Frank Cunningham, and Ted Dyer for their service to the commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison